

MANY NEW YORK SCHOOLS MUST CLOSE UNLESS COAL IS RUSHED

SUGAR TRUST AIMS TO KEEP PRICE HIGH FOR YEARS TO COME

Spreckels Charges That Food Administration Is an Adjunct of the Combination.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Charges of an attempt by the "Sugar Trust" to saddle high prices on the American people for years, through the Hoover committee, were made today in the Senate investigation by Charles A. Spreckels.

The witness charged that the Food Administration Committee is "a mere adjunct of the Trust," and seeks to bind all American refiners to allow it to contract for future Cuban crops at its own price.

If refiners agree to this, Spreckels declared, the price to the American consumer will be unalterably fixed for years after the war at a figure as high as at present or higher.

But unless the refiners agree to the price fixing, he said, they face loss of their Government license.

Spreckels, under questioning by Chairman Reed of the Senate Committee, stated that the price of American beet sugar would be advanced if the Hoover Committee pays Cuban cane growers 5 cents a pound, as contemplated.

The Hoover Committee, which "created" a sugar shortage, according to Spreckels, is packed with former employees of the "Sugar Trust," he declared.

"Even the watchmen are former watchmen for the American Sugar Refining Company," said Spreckels.

Spreckels produced a letter from George R. R. R. of the Hoover committee dated Dec. 10, in which R. R. R. said the State Department had been negotiating with the Cuban Government regarding price and supply of sugar. That was the first Spreckels had heard of such negotiations, he said.

Judge Lindley, counsel for Hoover, intimated that the high price for Cuban sugar was being arranged for some secret diplomatic reason. Lindley also denied that the Food Administration had fixed the price of beet sugar.

Chairman Reed tried to get Lindley to admit the coercion used by Hoover was practically price-fixing.

Questioning by Senator Reed emphasized the fact that all the sugar price fixing was done without consulting any representative of the great consuming public.

Turning from the Cuban cane sugar, Reed brought from Spreckels the statement that beet farmers are not profiting by the price fixed for beet sugar.

"The beet sugar factories are getting the profit," said Spreckels.

He produced a telegram from Food Administrator Merrill of California to Hoover, stating that the Cuban beet sugar growers would not plant their usual acreage until the Food Administration prevented the factories from grabbing the beet price.

"The Sugar Trust has big interests in the beet sugar industry," Spreckels added.

Before the morning session ended Spreckels and President Babst of the American Sugar Refining Company clashed over the anti-trust suit against the American.

Spreckels said Babst, last October, discussed with his committee dissolution of the suit and asked Spreckels to write a letter to President Wilson suggesting that the suit be dropped.

Babst, declared he had only asked Spreckels if he would join in such a request if other competitors did.

Spreckels testified that on about Oct. 1 Babst came to him and said: "We are good now and we have an intimation from the Attorney General that if you will write a letter to the President saying we are good that the suit will be dismissed."

"What makes you think I have such influence with the President?" Spreckels said he replied.

"Because you are one of our principal competitors," was stated as the answer.

Spreckels stated that Babst said again that we are good now and will be in the future and that he (Spreckels) answered: "I am not willing to take a chance on the future."

Spreckels said he declined to write such a letter.

Spreckels read correspondence showing that Babst and R. R. R. had tried to get him to cancel a contract with the British Royal Commission through which France and England were being supplied, on the technical ground that the Commission's agent had not provided tonnage to transport the sugar within a specified time.

Spreckels refused to cancel his contract and was told, he testified, that he might as well release it for the domestic market "because there would be no ships to carry it abroad before Jan. 1."

"I did release the sugar," said Spreckels, "and was notified by the Royal Commission's agent shortly thereafter that ships would be provided to transport the sugar to the United States."

PENNY A LOAF PROFIT AGREED ON FOR BREAD

Retail Grocers and Food Administrator Williams Come to Terms on Price.

A penny profit per loaf is the war-time clause adopted by representatives of the retail grocers in conference with Federal Food Administrator Arthur Williams today. Half a cent a loaf profit when more than one is sold at a time, is also a part of the agreement. The price fixed probably will become effective within a short time.

This price means, the grocers' representatives declared, that the penny profit will go to the customer unshared and without delivery. When Mr. Williams first tried to get the grocers to fix a standard price on bread there was considerable demurring. Charles H. Hays, President of the New York Retail Grocers Association, said that as things stand now, the grocers' sales of bread had been greatly curtailed by the action of the Government in ruling that stale loaves should not be returned to the bakeries. Bread a day old was sold at one cent off, he added.

NEW PRICE FIXING BILL INCLUDES KITCHEN STOVE

Clothing, Farm Implements and Nearly Every Article of Common Use Will Be Hooverized.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The new price fixing bill in preparation empowers the President, through Food Administrator Hoover, to fix the prices of clothing, farm implements and even the housewife's tinware, cooking utensils and fruit cans, it was learned today. Practically every article of common use affecting the cost of living will be embraced in the bill.

Indications are that it will be put in the hands of some one other than Senator Gore, Oklahoma, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. His hostility last session of the Food Control Law brought Senator Chamberlain of Oregon to the Administrator's rescue.

Gore today refused to say whether he would handle the bill, if it is presented to his committee.

"We've started wrecking things by this price-fixing and I suppose now we'll go the whole route," was his only comment.

POLICE ACCUSE CLERK OF SHOOTING CHAUFFEUR

Declare Body and a Friend Lured Torpey Within Range With Siren of Own Car.

Patrick Torpey, chauffeur for Maurice and Florence Walton, dancers, who was shot as he hastened from the stage door of the Winter Garden late Sunday night, lured by the peculiar siren of his employers' machine, had an enemy despite his denial, the police say.

Early today they arrested Wilfred Body, twenty-one, a clerk living at No. 408 West 51st Street. Detectives Flood and Daly, who made the arrest, charge him with the Torpey shooting.

According to the police, there has been bad feeling between the two for some time. Torpey, it is said, whined Body some time ago and later threatened one of Body's friends. The two, it is alleged, went to the Winter Garden Sunday night, and, knowing Torpey would run out if he heard the peculiar siren of the Waltons' car, sounded it and shot him when he appeared.

Body has refused to give any clue to the identity of his assailant. Detective Flood will take Body to Bellevue to face Torpey today.

FIRE DRIVES OUT TENANTS.

Policeman Burned and Cut Trying to Save Family.

Fire today drove out tenants of the three-story building at Nos. 402 and 404 Pearl Street. The blaze started in the shop of Gerald Viverito, a dealer in paper and rags, and caused \$3,000 damage. Mrs. Winifred Cook, who lives on the second floor with her two little children, became separated from one of them, and Miss Margaret Sullivan, a boarder, told Policeman Joseph J. Cahill, who ran up the fire escape. The metal ladder was like a hot spider and he was badly burned, but kicked his way through a window, cutting himself about the face and hands. Meanwhile some one in the crowd had gone through the smoke and taken out Mrs. Cook and her children.

BRITISH GO ON IN PALESTINE

Extend Their Lines Northeast of Jerusalem, Says Allenby.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Further extension of the British lines beyond Jerusalem was reported in the official statement from Gen. Allenby today.

The advance was northeast of Jerusalem, it was stated.

Since yesterday three Turkish airplanes have been destroyed and another has been brought down.

Charges That Germans Control Sugar Interests in Hawaii.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—Charges that persons living in Germany control large sugar interests in the Hawaiian Islands, and that, according to information, the incomes from these enemy interests were placed to the credit of the German Government, were made here today by George Carter, former Governor of Hawaii.

Mr. Carter said he had been so informed by the authorities at Washington.

GERMANS HURLING BIGGEST SHELLS AGAINST ITALIANS

Four Hundred Monster Projectiles Concentrated at One Point, but Line Holds.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Friday, Dec. 14 (By the Associated Press).—The enemy has brought a large number of his heaviest guns to the Piave and northern fronts, and the bombardment has taken on increased range and violence.

Some of the shells have reached Maniago, eight miles back of the Piave and a few miles from the city of Treviso. Four hundred of these monster projectiles were concentrated on one point.

Gen. Diaz, the Italian Commander in Chief, sums up the results of the struggle of the last three days in the north by saying that the enemy secured an insignificant stretch of ground at the cost of an immense sacrifice of blood. Although he has obtained a lodgment on Monte Spioncello and Monte Fontanel, heretofore held by the Italians, this does not represent any appreciable advance toward the plain, which is his main object, but merely a fluctuation of the Italian line, of which Monte Grappa (Saw Mountain) is the dominating barrier.

Even below Grappa formidable offensive works have been constructed in the event that the enemy should reach the plain, but each day of his futile pressure on the north and east and of successful resistance by the Italians and their Allies strengthens the belief that the enemy will not realize this eventually.

Heavy fighting is in progress today on the mountain front in the north, east of the Brenta River. The enemy is attempting to advance his positions as he has those west of the river, which would give him two lines of approach to the Brenta Valley and the open plain.

Administration diverting the supplies to the West and to New England. Joseph Hall, Deputy Fuel Administrator for the Bronx, said today:

"In the twenty-five yards in the Bronx we have 2,000 tons of coal this morning. A shipment of 200 tons is expected hourly and a further shipment may be received today. Yesterday, in spite of the storm, we distributed 800 tons. Hospitals and other public institutions are supplied. But there is an acute shortage of fuel for apartment houses."

LONG LINES OF PEOPLE ARE BEGGING FOR COAL.

When the office of Mr. Schley opened for business this morning there was a long line of men and women there waiting to sign the blue cards. Each of these cards represents an urgent appeal for fuel from persons who have none. Many of the women had children in their arms. Their pinched faces showed their suffering from the cold.

Estimates placed the number of families who are urgently in need of fuel at between 250,000 and 300,000. Many of them have not a pound of coal in their homes.

When Mr. Garfield was asked about the situation and the question was put up to him as to what he is going to do about sending aid to the people here he said:

"I have nothing to do with New York City's particular situation further than to get the coal moved. The city's particular problem I shall leave to Mr. Wiggins."

Some of the hospitals could get fuel today, and that only in option lots. Six hundred personal appeals were made to Administrator Reece. Schley for families having invalids and small children. The big hotels also have a very scant supply.

The Fuel Administrator has set aside forty tons in various parts of the city for the relief of the very poor. It will be distributed in 100-pound lots under the direction of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, as yesterday.

Allan Robinson, President of the City and Suburban Homes Company, said the coal shortage had made it necessary to shut off steam from its two big east side blocks housing over 8,000 persons. To enable the tenants to use gas as a means of supplying heat an allowance of 10 cents a day will be made to the renter of each apartment.

WOMEN 40—SHOVEL SNOW!

Advice of One Who Has Seen a Pretty Face Supplanted Here.

"No one seems to want a woman in business if she's over forty," was the plaint made today by Miss Kate Hickie of No. 138 East 80th Street, who took a job at shoveling snow on the streets today at forty cents an hour.

Yesterday Miss Hickie was armed with a shovel when the appearance of two newspaper photographers caused her to see her job to dodge publicity.

"I am over forty," she continued as she waited to be assigned to a drift. "I have been a stenographer for years and a translator of French and Spanish, but I have seen the tragedy of a pretty face and youth supplanting me at my desk. And now—I'm shoveling snow with the men."

Receiver Named for Jewett Brothers.

Federal Judge Mantion today appointed Allen R. Mendenhall of No. 120 Broadway, receiver for Jewett Brothers, one of the best known brokerage houses in the financial district. An involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed against the firm. Liabilities are placed at \$400,000, and assets at \$300,000.

Witnesses Waiver in Testimony as to Purchase of Pistol.

DENHAM, Mass., Dec. 15.—Both sides rested in the case of Miss Harriet A. Varney, charged with the murder of Mrs. Pauline A. Keyes this afternoon.

Testimony in refusal of the claims set up by the defense yesterday that Harold W. Jackson, an employee of George H. Keyes, bought the revolver with which Keyes' wife was shot was presented today by the witnesses.

Mr. Carter said he had been so informed by the authorities at Washington.

Soldiers Get Sleigh Rides.

These Dancers Laugh at Trifles Like Blizzards: Go Right on Practicing in Snow on Hotel Roof



When the first winter blizzard arrived in New York probably the only ones in the city who welcomed it were Miss Margaret Crawford, a classical dancer, and her pupils. Miss Crawford believes that dancing in snow restores vigor and beauty. The class has been practicing daily on the roof of the Hotel Majestic. After the big storm the class practiced as usual on the roof of the hotel, entirely indifferent to the foot of snow covering it. The girls, though scantily clad and barefoot, seemed to enjoy the snow frolic.

COAL FAMINE SPREADS; WOMEN BEG FOR FUEL; MORE YARDS CLOSE

(Continued from First Page.)

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Food Prices for Retailers Suggested by Food Board

Compare Them With the Prices Asked by the New York Retailers To-Day.

The Federal Food Board has published a supplementary list of "suggested" quotations on certain food staples for the benefit—and perhaps the guidance—of retailers in New York. The prices are as follows:

	Medium rental neighborhoods.	Low rental neighborhoods.	Wholesale prices.
Peas (whole green).....	14.3c per lb.	10 1/2 to 12 1/2 c	14 1/2 c per lb.
Peas (split green).....	14.3c per lb.	10 1/2 to 12 1/2 c	14 1/2 c per lb.
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SECOND DRAFT STARTS WITH QUESTIONNAIRE

540,000 Registrants Here Get Blanks to Fill—First to Report to Boards Monday.

Sending of questionnaires to the 540,000 registrants in Greater New York began at noon today as the first step in the second draft for the National Army. The 139 local exemption boards were working to complete the organization of their forces to handle the first of the men, who are due to call Monday afternoon and evening. Already there are 1,500 stenographers and interpreters listed with the Mayor's Committee on National Defense as volunteers to aid the registrants in filling out the questionnaires.

Required to give legal aid to the registrants in answering the questions have signed up for the period of the draft—twenty-seven days. John M. Flowers of the Legal Advisory Board said: "I wish I clearly understood that the lawyers are giving their advice free of charge. Registrants are not to pay anybody anything for advice. Thousands were fleeced during the first draft by unscrupulous persons who posed as lawyers."

It was estimated at noon that about \$50,000 coupons, aggregating roughly \$150,000, had been received. At the opening of business today \$12,673 worth of coupons received through the mail had been counted and checks for the interest had been drawn for mailing. It is expected that altogether the Federal Reserve Bank of this district will pay interest of about \$12,000,000 in the next few days.

BRITISH HONOR HEROES OF EARLY WAR DAYS

Choral Commemoration Attended by King and Queen and High Government Officials.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A choral commemoration of the "First Seven Divisions" the men who stemmed the German onrush in the summer and autumn of 1914—was held today in Albert Hall in the presence of King George and Queen Mary and 700 survivors of the first British expeditionary army in France.

The veterans, many of whom were wounded, first were entertained at luncheon by the Lord Mayor. Then they marched through cheering crowds to the hall. Foreign Secretary Balfour and Lord Derby, Secretary for War, participated in the ceremonies. All the music was by British composers.

BARRACK CITY TO BE BUILT AT WASHINGTON FOR WAR

City Crumbles Under Inrush of 60,000 Civilian Aides and Number Will Be Doubled.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A barracks city on the Potomac to house its large and rapidly growing army of civilian war aides will be built by the Government at once.

Washington has crumpled under the inrush of 60,000 war emergency citizens. That number probably will be doubled within six months.

The public utilities have broken down under the stress. Telephone service except through Government offices is hopeless. The street car system cannot handle the unprecedented traffic.

Thousands of men, women and girls walk long distances to work every day rather than fight their way into the cars. No new limos or cars are being built because of the shortage of materials. No more houses can be built for the same reason. The minimum monthly rent for two rooms was \$20.00 furnished is \$65. Real estate men are cleaning up. One agent who raised the rent on the house occupied by another agent, said to him:

"We've been starving here for four years. Now we're going to see what is coming to us, and you're no exception."

Girl Government workers are paying \$30 or more a month for hall bedrooms and hush to boarding house proprietors. Dozens of girls have come here from different parts of the country and promptly returned. The best home when they learned that board and room would cost them more than their jobs paid them.

SUPPLY OF BIG GUNS FOR ARMY IS BETTER THAN WAS BELIEVED

Delivery of Clothing and Other Supplies Delayed by the Contractor.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Chief of Ordnance Crozier, testifying today at the secret Senate Military Committee's investigation, detailed the situation regarding heavy ordnance, anti-aircraft and big guns.

Senator Chamberlain afterward said Crozier's figures showed a much better condition with regard to this branch of ordnance than most members of the committee had any idea existed.

Chamberlain said the information given by Crozier was of a character "that we would give millions of dollars to duplicate concerning the German Army."

He intimated that Crozier satisfied the committee that American artillery soon will be on the western front, replacing France from the necessity of supplying the American forces with "heavies."

The Quartermaster General's Department announced today a delinquency in delivery on clothing, shoes and blanket contracts of from 6 to 48 per cent.

The slow delivery of badly needed supplies was blamed on contractors and transportation congestion.

But, the Quartermaster's office stated, "adequate supplies of clothing have been provided all men in service." If proper deliveries are made by contractors and transportation is not blocked, "uninterrupted adequate supplies for all future needs will be assured," it was stated.

Up to Dec. 1 the following supplies were contracted for and deliveries made:

Blankets—17,931,682; delivered, 8,393,333.

Woolen cloth for overcoats, contracted enough for 3,691,800; delivered, 6,412,160 and 4,308,345 respectively.

Woolen cloth for uniforms, contracted—23,959,555 yards; delivered, 11,298,567 yards.

Woolen cloth for shirts, contracted—35,155,051 yards; delivered, 10,990,202 yards, made into 3,676,444 shirts. Shoes, contracted—21,117,615 pairs; delivered, 8,525,298 pairs.

Hats contracted for—8,092,021; delivered, 2,554,091.

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